

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 9-13, 15-20, and 32-34 are original. Claims 1, 3, 7, 21-24, 27, 28, 31, 37, 39 and 40 are currently amended to overcome the rejections in the March 9, 2007 office action. Claims 36, 38, 42 and 43 have been cancelled, and claims 44, 45, 46 and 47 have been added. Claims 1 - 35, 37, 39-41, and 44-47 are pending.

35 U.S.C. §102 Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 14 stand rejected as being anticipated by Thompson et. al. (U.S Pub #2002/0142847) "Thompson". Claims 23, 26-28, 31-32 and 34 stand rejected as being anticipated by Seven Kingdoms II: The Fryhtan Wars "Seven Kingdoms".

Applicant submits the references do not anticipate the amended claims and, in view of the comments below, respectfully traverse the Office's rejection. Before discussion the substance of the Office's rejections, however sections entitled "the Thompson reference" and "The Seven Kingdoms reference" are provided and describe their respective disclosures and teachings.

The Thompson Reference

Thompson teaches a game assistant application that is used to build a competitive card or board game by analyzing the user's physical inventory. In Thompson, the user manually inputs collection content and a wish list (e.g. a desired competitive game or strategic outcome). The Thompson game assistant application then using the user inputs, game rules, logic and its own database

determines recommendations for the user regarding which games pieces to use when the user plays the game.

The Seven Kingdoms Reference

Seven Kingdoms teaches a game where the player builds civilizations which are displayed on a map. The game player may build a particular kingdom which may contain many nationalities. The kingdom may also contain building structures (objects) such as mines, markets and factories. Seven Kingdoms displays these buildings on a map. The user, by selecting a tab (Nationality Filter) on the map, can selectively display these building structures of a particular nationality or by selecting another tab (Object Filter) can display a particular type of building.

Argument

Applicant submits that amended claim 1, upon which claims 1 - 22 are dependent, is not anticipated by Thompson. Applicant submits that amended claim 23, upon which claims 24 - 30 are dependent, and amended claim 31 upon which claims 32-35 are dependent, are not anticipated by Seven Kingdoms.

Amended Claim 1 recites a method for managing a plurality of virtual items during computer game play, the method comprising:

indicating to a game player on a computer display during computer game play the plurality of computer generated virtual items to be obtained as possessions by a computer generated representation of the game player from other computer generated representations, at least a portion of the plurality of virtual items comprising attributes;

obtaining the plurality of virtual items with the computer generated representation of the game player;

indicating on the computer display as being possessed by the computer generated representation of the game player at least a portion of the obtained plurality of virtual items;

filtering the obtained plurality of virtual items based on their attributes; and
displaying the filtered obtained plurality of items in the game inventory.

Thompson does not show or disclose obtaining the virtual items with the computer generated representation of the game player, as recited in amended claim 1. Further Thompson does not indicate as being possessed by the computer generated representation of the game player during play of the game. Also, Thompson does not disclose a computer generated representation of the game player. Thompson is an application that is used to help the user in setting his strategy prior to the game, which is different from Applicant's game playing inventory management application. For these reasons, Applicant requests that the Office withdraw the §102 rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Claims 3, 6, 8 and 14 are allowable by virtue of their dependency upon claim 1 (either directly or indirectly). These claims are also allowable for their own recited features that, in combination with those recited in Claim 1 are neither disclosed nor suggested in Thompson. Accordingly, the §102 rejection should be withdrawn. Additionally, claim 3 is allowable over Thompson for independent reasons. For example:

Amended Claim 3 recites constructing a first and a second filter, wherein the first or second filter determines virtual items having a flag type attribute or an enumeration type attribute. Thompson does not use a filter that determines a flag type attribute or enumeration type attribute obtain a plurality of virtual items based on their attributes. Accordingly, claim 3 is allowable over Thompson and the §102 rejection should be withdrawn.

Amended Claim 23 recites a computer game including a game display, the game display comprising:

virtual item icons indicating a plurality of virtual items collected in a package by a computer generated representation of a game player during play of the computer game, at least a portion of the plurality of virtual items comprising attributes, and

an inventory management portion, the inventory management portion further includes:

an inventory filter icon that can be selected to yield a selected inventoried package display, the selected inventoried package display displays one or more filtered virtual item icons, each displayed virtual filtered item icon represents at

least one of the plurality of collected virtual items that includes the attributes filtered based on queries associated with the inventory filter icon.

Amended Claim 31 recites a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions which, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

indicate a plurality of virtual items to be obtained as possessions by a computer generated representation of a virtual game player during the play of a computer game, at least a portion of the plurality of virtual items comprising attributes;

collect in an inventory package the plurality of virtual items with the computer generated representation of the game player;

select a filter to apply to the inventory package based on the attributes of at least one of the plurality of virtual items that are used within the computer game; and

apply the selected filter to the inventory package based on the at least one of the attributes.

Seven Kingdoms does not show or disclose virtual items collected in a package by a computer generated representation of a game player, as recited in amended claim 23 and 31. Specifically Seven Kingdoms II does not indicate to the game player virtual items collected in a package during game play. Further Seven Kingdoms does not display during game play the filtered items in a game inventory package. Seven Kingdoms, unlike the Applicant's game playing inventory management application, does not provide items collected in a package

by a computer generated representation of a game player. For these reasons, Applicant requests that the Office withdraw these rejections.

Claims 26-28, 30, 32, and 34-35 are allowable by virtue of their dependency upon claim 23 (either directly or indirectly) and 31 respectively. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features that, in combination with those recited in Claim 23 or 31 are neither disclosed nor suggested in Seven Kingdoms. Accordingly, the §102 rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that amended claims 1-22 are not anticipated by Thompson, amended claims 23 - 35 are not anticipated by Seven Kingdoms, and hereby requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103 Claim Rejections

Dependent claims 2, 5, 7, 9-13, 15-20, 22 and 24, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over Thompson in view of Seven Kingdoms II (*Office Action* p. 6 - 9).

Claims 25, 29, 33 and independent claim 37 upon which claims 38 - 43 are dependent are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over Seven Kingdoms II in view of Thompson (*Office Action* p. 10 - 12).

Dependent claims 21 and 24, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over Seven Kingdoms II in view of Thompson (*Office Action* p. 7 - 9) and further in view of Motor City.

For the reasons stated below, applicant traverses these rejections.

Amended Claim 37 recites “a game server operative to couple with a plurality of game computers running a computer game, the game server at least partially including an inventory management portion that stores an indication of a plurality of virtual items obtained as possessions in a pack by computer generated representations of a plurality of game players during their play of the computer game, at least a portion of the plurality of virtual items comprising attributes; and

the inventory management portion further including a process for providing an inventory filter icon that can be selected by the plurality of game players to filter attributes of the plurality of virtual items to yield a selected inventoried package, the selected inventoried package includes a process for indicating at least one virtual item icon to the game player, each indicated virtual item icon represents at least one of the plurality of the virtual items that includes the attributes filtered as a result of at least one of the game players selecting the inventory filter icon.”

Seven Kingdoms and/or Thompson do not teach or suggest the combination of feature(s) recited in claim 37. Thomson describes a method for managing game pieces, such as cards or board parts. Seven Kingdoms describes a method for displaying buildings on a map constructed during a game. Neither Thomson nor Seven Kingdoms describe an inventory management portions that indicates virtual items obtained as possessions in a pack by computer generated representations of game players during game play. Further there is no teaching or suggestion of a selectable filter icon that when selected filters and indicates the obtained virtual item icons in a pack, as recited in amended claim 37. Neither Seven Kingdoms nor Thompson store virtual items in a pack that may then be filtered.

Accordingly, claim 37 is allowable over the Seven Kingdoms and/or Thompson combination for at least the reasons described above, and Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 38 - 43 are allowable by virtue of their dependency upon claim 37 (either directly or indirectly). Accordingly, the §103 rejection should be withdrawn. Additionally, some or all of claims 38 - 43 are allowable over the Seven Kingdoms in view of Thompson combination for independent reasons. For example:

Amended Claim 39 recites wherein the virtual items are obtained as possessions by displaying the computer representations of the game player capturing the virtual items from computer representations of other game players during the play of the computer game. None of the references disclose filtering attributes of virtual items obtained as possessions by computer representations of the game player by capturing virtual items from computer representations of other game players.

Accordingly, claim 39 is allowable over the Seven Kingdoms in view of Thompson combination and the §103 rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 5, 7, 9-13, 15-20; 22, 25, 29 and 33 are allowable by virtue of their dependency upon claim 1, 23 and 31 respectively, which is allowable over Thompson for at least the reasons described above in response to the §102 rejection of claims 1, 23 and 31. Claims 2, 5, 7, 9-13, 15-20, 22, 25, 33 are also allowable over the Thompson / Seven Kingdoms combination because Thompson and/or Seven Kingdoms do not address the deficiencies of Thompson as described

above in the response to the rejection of amended claim 1 and Seven Kingdoms do not address the deficiencies for amended claims 23 and 31. Accordingly, the §103 rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 21 and 24 are allowable by virtue of their dependency upon claim 1, and 23 respectively, which is allowable over Thompson for at least the reasons described above in response to the §102 rejection of claim 1 and Seven Kingdoms for at least the reasons described above in response to the §102 rejection of claim 23. Claims 21 and 24 are also allowable over the Thompson / Seven Kingdoms / Motor City combination because Thompson and/or Seven Kingdoms /Motor City do not address the deficiencies of Thompson as described above in the response to the rejection of amended claims 1 and Seven Kingdoms do not address the deficiencies for amended claim 23.

Amended Claim 21 recites wherein the virtual items are indicated as being possessed using a displayed bag on a screen, wherein the filtering is executed using a filter, and wherein an indication of the filter is displayed as part of the screen displaying the bag. Neither Thompson, Seven Kingdoms nor Motor City display a bag that is used to indicate virtual items as being possessed, nor do they display a filter as part of the screen displaying the bag. Accordingly, claim 21 is allowable over the Thompson, Seven Kingdoms, Motor City references and the §103 rejection should be withdrawn.

Amended claim 24 further recites wherein dragging one of the virtual item icon associated with one of the virtual items to a different location on the game display with an input device alters the attributes of that virtual item. Neither Motor city nor any of the references disclose changing an attribute when a virtual

item is dragged to a different location using an input device. Dragging the virtual items allows the attribute to be instantly changed, rather than wearing out over time as discussed in Motor City. Further Motor City discloses constructing a vehicle in a racing game, but does not disclose altering an attribute of a first virtual item to enable a filter to filter the virtual item and disable the first filter from filtering the first virtual item as recited in amended claim 21. Accordingly, the §103 rejection should be withdrawn.

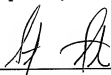
Claims 44-47 have been added and examination of those claims is hereby requested.

Conclusion

Pending claims 1-35, 37, 39-41, and 44-47 are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests issuance of the subject application. Should any issue remain that prevents immediate issuance of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the unresolved issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 8/9/07

By: 
Steven C Stewart
Reg. No. 33,555
(206) 315-7909